

MINUTES OF MEETING
CRANE SAFETY ON CONSTRUCTION SITES
NOVEMBER 3, 2002

In attendance: Harlan Fair, Chair
Joseph Kaplan
Matthew Burkart
Philip Alterman
Jack Chiaverini
Jim Hinze
Bob Rubin
Graham Brent
Rick Lawhun
Debbie Kates

1. **CONSTRUCTION INSTITUTE UPDATES** - Rick Lawhun and Debbie Kates. ASCE Policy is to be given first right of refusal in scheduling events and publications.

1. **ASCE POLICY 424** - Policy reviewed and corrections noted. Revision (see attached) to be submitted to Rick Lawhun, Director, Construction Institute.

1. **PURPOSE** as listed for Crane Safety in ASCE Register. Revision discussed with Rick Lawhun (see attached).

1. **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** - CI committee listings updated by adding Bob Rubin, Howard Shapiro and Leonard Middleton (see attached). Comment any corrections.

1. **OSHA NEGOTIATED RULE MAKING** - Matt Burkart nominated. No word to date. Twenty will be accepted out of 50+ nominations.

1. **LEGAL ASPECTS OF CRANE SAFETY** - Bob Rubin. Discussion of chapter.

Request for case caption on crane cases that have been decided on appeal. Bob will query crane cases for legal principles.

1. **CRANE SAFETY BOOK RE-WRITE -**

- a. Added chapter in addition to Legal chapter. It was decided to add a new chapter on “Crane Accident Investigation” - Alterman/Burkart.
- a. Chapter 1 - H. Fair to add comments/paragraphs on crane like devices; i.e., concrete pumpers, statistics - add property damage. Importance of life first. Need credible recent statistics Ontario-Dickie (M. Burkart to call).
- a. Chapter 4 - Page 48 Expand No. 3 “survey landing area”. Add “Release of load” issue.
- a. Chapter 6 - Revise chapter by Bill Nash distributed. Joe Kaplan and Jack Chiaverini will review.

1. **NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CERTIFICATION OF CRANE OPERATORS - Graham Brent**

NCCCCO organization

CCO credential

Have tested 17,000 operators

11-12,000 certified in 48 states

OSHA - Training required 1926.21

Press Release of 3/19/99 is the OSHA recognition of crane operator certification

Typical threshold 8T crane

80 training sites

List of safety and cities requiring licensing/certification (copy attached)

Graham Brent has state and city regulations

1. **NOVEMBER 4, 2002 - Met Charlotte McNaughton, Director ASCE Publication.** She confirmed ASCE rights of refusal on publication. Gave two (2) options:

- a. Committee Report/Special Publication - No peer review; camera ready two colors. We retain control of format.
- a. Manual - as before, but two colors ok. Peer review. ASCE controls formatting and will typeset.

2. **NOVEMBER 5, 2002 - Meeting at OSHA with:**

Stewart Burkhammer, Director of Construction, Standards and Guidance

Attended: Fair, Burkart, Kaplan, Toole, Ardery

- a. Alliance - ASCE/OSHA alliance discussed for sharing “best practices and technical knowledge.” Mike Toole will draft alliance agreement to submit to CI/ASCI. Cranes are on National Agenda. Template for allowance provided.
- a. Ergonomics - Study by Clark Construction. This is a developing area.
- a. Negotiated Rule Making - Select 20 of 50+ candidates.
- a. Data and Statistics - John Franklin of OSHA active. Matt Burkart to call John Franklin.
- a. Camille Villanova - runs website, working to improve.
- a. Small business - Tina Coles contact person. Joe Kaplan will contact.

CRANE SAFETY ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

Policy

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), recognizing that crane and rigging operations on construction sites require special consideration in order to protect against deaths and injuries, believes that improvements in the site operation of cranes can and should be made. ASCE supports efforts in the construction industry to promote and specify safety improvements which:

- Protect the public during crane operations
- Provides for an active role by owners in project safety including the assignment of overall project safety responsibility to develop a coordinated project safety plan which includes crane and rigging safety and electrical power line hazards.
- Assigns a prime contractor/construction manager (PC/CM) the primary authority, responsibility and coordination for construction site safety including the management of crane operations.
- Require the PC/CM to develop a crane and rigging safety plan and to train management staff and job site personnel in crane and rigging safety which specifically addresses electrical power line hazards on or adjacent to the site.
- Encourage manufacturers to standardize load chart formats and equipment control configurations, with all manuals written in the language and vernacular of the end user in addition to SI units and containing detailed explanatory graphics.
- Support existing National “Certification of Crane Operators” (CCO) program which is:

- Recognized by OSHA
 - Provides for uniform standards nationally
 - Is Industrial Relations neutral
 - Provides testing locally on demand
 - Requires periodic re-testing and is equipment specific
- Support the establishment of a Rigging Certification Program.
- Encourage the inclusion of courses for the safe utilization of cranes and proper rigging procedures in College and University Civil Engineering Construction and Continuing Education programs.
- Requires a Professional Engineer to review the crane and rigging safety plan where there is risk to the public or site personnel.

Issue

ASCE, through its committee on Crane Safety on Construction Sites, finds crane accidents continue to occur with great frequency and severity because existing regulations, standards and procedures are inadequate. The significant risk to individuals and property associated with crane operations justifies a special effort to improve crane safety as an integral part of construction site safety. Improvements can be realized by designating specific entities responsible for job site crane safety, and training of crane operators, riggers and all personnel involved in planning and conducting crane operations.

Rationale

Studies indicate that a large number of deaths occur as a result of unsafe practices involving cranes. Catastrophic collapses such as Miller Park Stadium in Milwaukee occur with all too great a frequency. Electrocution via contact with power lines is the number one cause of fatalities. Training of all levels of management, crane operators, riggers, spotters and others remains the best preventive method for reducing accidents and injuries.

The significant risk of death and/or serious injury to individuals and property damage associated with crane operations demands an increased effort to improve crane safety as an integral part of construction site safety.

CRANE SAFETY

Purpose: to 1) Act as a forum for disseminating information to owners, contractors, designers, other associations, and the educational community. Coordinate with other ASCE committees, associations and other appropriate regulatory agencies. 2) Define responsibilities of owners (public & private), general contractors, designers and their employees relative to crane safety under different types of construction contracts. 3) Monitor and update ASCE Policy Statement 424 - Crane Safety on Construction Sites and 4) Compile crane safety information. 5) Monitor and review current and proposed legislation, rules, regulations, court and arbitration decisions relating to crane safety on construction sites.